

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 /093 W  
-----061729 261217Z /42

O 261045Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1876

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 4266

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: BOTHA PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE CITIZEN ON JULY 26;  
BEGIN TEXT: PIK FLIES OFF TO US FOR CRISIS SESSION ON SWA.  
MR. PIK BOTHA, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LEFT URGENTLY LAST  
NIGHT FOR NEW YORK TO PUT SOUTH AFRICA'S CASE ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.  
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT BEFORE LEAVING, HE SAID  
THE WHOLE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN SITUATION WAS STILL SERIOUS.  
"I AM NOT MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A FAVORABLE OUTCOME."  
HIS DECISION TO ATTEND THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS ON  
SOUTH - WEST AFRICA IN PERSON- AFTER A WEEKEND DECISION NOT TO GO-  
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WAS MADE YESTERDAY AFTER HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE PRIME  
MINISTER, MR. VORSTER, AT HIS HOLIDAY RESORT IN THE NORTH-WESTERN  
TRANSVAAL.

A GOVERNMENT SOURCE SAID IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT MR. BOTHA SHOULD  
PERSONALLY LEAD THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION AT THE UN " BECAUSE THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOUTH AFRICA

TO PUT ITS CASE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL."

" WE HAVE A VERY STRONG CASE WITH REGARD TO THE NEGOTIATIONS ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA, AND AN EVEN STRONGER CASE OVER OUR TERRITORIAL RIGHTS TO WALVIS BAY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MR. BOTHA TOLD REPORTERS TAT THE AIRPORT HE HAD DECIDED TO ATTEND THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TO KEEP THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

ASKED WHETHER THINGS COULD STILL GO WRONG FOR SOUTH AFRICA, HE SAID ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN.

" BUT IN A DELICATE SITUATION OF THIS NATURE, NO GOVERNMENT, LEAST OF ALL OURS, WILL LIGHTLY TAKE A DECISION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

" IF THINGS GO WRONG, I CAN ASSURE YOU THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WILL

HAVE A CLEAR CONSCIENCE THAT IT DID ITS UTMOST TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA."

ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR SOUTH AFRICA IF THE WEST ABSTAINED FROM VOTING ON THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION, HE REPLIED:

" I CANNOT AT THIS STAGE SAY WHAT WILL BE SUFFICIENT FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND WHAT WILL NOT BE.

DIFFICULT:

"WE ARE ENTERING A FEW VERY DIFFICULT DAYS. WE WILL HAVE TO WATCH EVENTS. WE WILL HAVE TO SEE HOW THE WEST REACTS- WHAT IT STATES PUBLICLY AND HOW IT SETS OUT ITS POSITION.

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" ALL THESE MATTERS WILL INFLUENCE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS FINAL DECISION."

ASKED WHY HE HAD CHANGED HIS EARLIER DECISION NOT TO GO TO NEW YORK, MR. BOTHA SAID CIRCUMSTANCES HAD CHANGED.

MESSAGE:

"WE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM THE BIG FIVE LATE ON MONDAY EVENING WHICH PLACED THE WHOLE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN SITUATION IN A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT LIGHT.

"IN VIEW OF THIS MESSAGE AND OTHERS WE HAD RECEIVED, I HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER YESTERDAY MORNING AND THE PRIME MINISTER DECIDED THAT IT WAS IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTEREST TO BE PRESENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS WHEN THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN ISSUE WAS BEING DISCUSSED."

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UNCLAS FINAL SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 4266

MR. BOTHA CONFIRMED THAT BEFORE HE LEFT FOR NEW YORK LAST NIGHT  
HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MR. CYRUS VANCE, THE AMERICAN SECRETARY  
OF STATE.  
THE MESSAGE WHICH THE WESTERN FIVE GAVE THE GOVERNMENT ON MONDAY  
EVENING WAS CONFIDENTIAL.  
" WE KNOW WHAT WE WANT TO DO AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND WHAT WE  
WILL SAY THERE.  
" I DON'T WANT TO REVEAL OUR STANDPOINT AT THIS STAGE. AS FAR AS THE  
SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER IS CONCERNED, I HAVE LITTLE TO SAY."  
MR. BOTHA SAID SOUTH AFRICA WOULD ASK THAT IT BE ALLOWED TO PUT ITS  
CASE, BUT HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THE SECURITY WOULD GIVE IT THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.  
MR. BOTHA, WHO ARRIVED BY HELICOPTER AT JAN SMUTS, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY

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THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. BRAND FOURIE; ADVOCATE  
JOHN VIALI, CHIEF ADVISER TO THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL OF SWA; MR.  
NEIL STEYN, COUNSELLOR OF HIS DEPARTMENT, AND HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY  
MR. DE KLERK.  
A GOVERNMENT SOURCE SAID EARLIER IN THE DAY:  
" THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA STARTS  
TOMORROW MORNING, AND IT WILL BE A VERY GOOD THING FOR MR. BOTHA TO

BE

ON THE SPOT SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO REACT STRONGLY."

MR . BOTHA'S URGENT FLIGHT TO NEW YORK WOULD BE VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF

THE IMPORTANCE AND SERIOUSNESS WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT  
ATTACKED THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTE.

INTENTIONS:

AN INTERIM CONSULTATION HAD BEEN HELD YESTERDAY BETWEEN WESTERN  
REPRESENTATIVES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

" BUT SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT GET EITHER POSITIVE OR A NEGATIVE ANSWER  
FROM THE WEST ABOUT ITS INTENTIONS ON THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION."  
THE PRIME MINISTER, IN A NOTE TO THE FIVE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS GAVE  
THEM A FIRM WARNING THAT SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT OPT OUT OF THE DEAL  
SHOULD THE WEST SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION DEMANDING THE INTERGRATION  
OF WALVIS BAY INTO SOUTH WEST AFRICAN BEFORE INDEPENDENCE.  
THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION IS FLYING FIRST TO LONDON AND WILL  
THEN TAKE A CONNECTING FLIGHT TO NEW YORK. " IT DEPENDS ON  
CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN WE WILL COME BACK," SAID MR. FOURIER. END TEXT.

2 THE RAND DAILY MAIL CARRIED A SIMILAR FIRST-PAGE REPORT, ADDING THAT

BOTHA IS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE ON THE TRIP TO NEW YORK AND THAT  
" MAXIMUM EXPOSURE IS PLANNED WITH APPEARANCES ON NATIONAWIDE  
TELEVISION.

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## Message Attributes

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